

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

AARON SINGLETON,

Plaintiff,

-against-

CITY OF NEW YORK; DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS; BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY OFFICE; CYNTHIA BRANN, CITY OF  
NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
COMMISSIONER; ALLISON KLINE, ASSISTANT  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY BRONX COUNTY;  
MEGAN LEO, ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
BRONX COUNTY; DARCELL CLARK, BRONX  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY,

Defendants.

21-CV-2893 (LTS)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE UNDER  
28 U.S.C. § 1915(g)

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, Chief United States District Judge:

Plaintiff, who is a prisoner in the Anna M. Kross Center on Rikers Island, filed this action *pro se* and seeks *in forma pauperis* (IFP) status. The Court directs Plaintiff to show cause why the Court should not deny his IFP application under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), the Prison Litigation Reform Act's three-strikes provision.

**PRISON LITIGATION REFORM ACT**

The Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) added the following three-strikes provision to the IFP statute:

In no event shall a prisoner bring a civil action...under this section if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury.

§ 1915(g). The Court finds that Plaintiff has accumulated three strikes under the PLRA, and he is therefore barred under § 1915(g) from filing any actions IFP. *See Singleton v. City of New York*

*Comptroller Office*, ECF 1:20-CV-8591, 8 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 5, 2021) (action dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), (iii)); *Singleton v. The People of the State of New York*, ECF 1:20-CV-4686, 6 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 20, 2020) (action dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(B)(i), (ii), (iii), as frivolous, for failure to state a claim on which relief may be granted, and for seeking monetary relief from defendants that are immune from such relief), *appeal denied*, No. 20-3115 (2d Cir. June 1, 2021) (appeal dismissed because it “lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact.” *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)). Because Plaintiff is barred under § 1915(g), unless he is “under imminent danger of serious physical injury,” he must pay the filing fee.

Plaintiff does not allege any facts suggesting that he is in imminent danger of serious physical injury.<sup>1</sup> Instead, Plaintiff alleges that he has had “phone calls and mail (outgoing) in the New York City Department of Correction (made and sent out) . . . turned over to the Bronx County District Attorney’s Office,” which he contends “is an absolute unreasonable search and seizure in violation of the Fourth Amendment.” (ECF 2 at 4, 6.)

### **NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD**

*A pro se* litigant is generally entitled to notice and an opportunity to be heard before the Court issues a final decision that is unfavorable to the litigant. *See Snider v. Melindez*, 199 F.3d 108, 113 (2d Cir. 1999) (requirement of notice and opportunity to be heard “plays an important role in establishing the fairness and reliability” of the dismissal order, “avoids the risk that the court may overlook valid answers to its perception of defects in the plaintiff’s case,” and prevents unnecessary appeals and remands). The Court therefore grants Plaintiff leave to submit

---

<sup>1</sup> An imminent danger is not one “that has dissipated by the time a complaint is filed,” *Pettus v. Morgenthau*, 554 F.3d 293, 296 (2d Cir. 2009); rather, it must be one “existing at the time the complaint is filed,” *Malik v. McGinnis*, 293 F.3d 559, 563 (2d Cir. 2002).

a declaration showing that, while a prisoner, he has not filed three or more cases that were dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff must submit this declaration within thirty days. If Plaintiff does not make this showing, or if he fails to respond to this order, the Court will deny Plaintiff's IFP application, dismiss the action without prejudice, and bar Plaintiff from filing future actions IFP while he is a prisoner.<sup>2</sup>

### **CONCLUSION**

The Court directs Plaintiff to show cause why the Court should not deny his IFP application under the PLRA's three strikes provision, 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). Plaintiff must file a declaration within thirty days explaining any reason why he should not be barred under the PLRA. A declaration form is attached to this order for Plaintiff's convenience. If Plaintiff does not show cause, or if he fails to respond to this order, the Court will deny Plaintiff's IFP application, dismiss this action without prejudice, and bar Plaintiff under § 1915(g) from filing future actions IFP while he is a prisoner.

The Clerk of Court is directed to mail a copy of this order to Plaintiff and note service on the docket.

The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith, and therefore IFP status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. *Cf.*

---

<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff is not barred from filing a new case by prepaying the filing fee.

*Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962) (holding that an appellant demonstrates good faith when he seeks review of a nonfrivolous issue).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 9, 2021  
New York, New York

/s/ Laura Taylor Swain  
LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN  
Chief United States District Judge

---

---

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

---

Write the first and last name of each plaintiff or  
petitioner.

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ CV \_\_\_\_\_

-against-

---

Write the first and last name of each defendant or  
respondent.

**DECLARATION**

---

Briefly explain above the purpose of the declaration, for example, "in Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment," or "in Response to Order to Show Cause."

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare under penalty of perjury that the  
following facts are true and correct:

In the space below, describe any facts that are relevant to the motion or that respond to a court order. You may also refer to and attach any relevant documents.

Attach additional pages and documents if necessary.

Executed on (date)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Prison Identification # (if incarcerated)

---

Address

City

State Zip Code

---

---

Zip Code

Telephone Number (if available)

---

E-mail Address (if available)